

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
March 4, 2014
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brian Sager on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall. He explained the consent calendar process and invited public participation.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Dillon, Maureen Larson, Mayor Brian Sager, Mark Saladin, Joseph Starzynski, RB Thompson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Turner

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, Human Resource Director Deb Schober, Human Resources Coordinator Terry Willcockson, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Chief of Police Robert Lowen, Deputy City Clerk Cindy Smiley

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Public Comments

Mike Ortmann, 3525 Castle Rd., Woodstock stated that he owns Red Iron Tavern and he questioned why the City is plowing Highway 120 and blasting his sidewalk with snow since it is a State highway. He advised that he can't get any answers from Public Works. He reported that the other day he saw a City truck salting Rt. 120 even though he read in the Independent that the City is trying to conserve salt. He stated that he called Public Works and talked to Jane who advised that they aren't supposed to be doing that so he is questioning why they are doing it.

R. Stelford stated that he would have to check into it advising that it is the first he has heard of it. M. Ortmann advised that he has it all on videotape. R. Stelford stated that it would be beneficial and that they would be glad to take a look at it. He noted that they shouldn't be plowing nor salting Rt. 120 because it is a State highway.

Mayor Sager stated that he appreciates the point M. Ortmann is making because there is snow being splashed on the public way in front of his business. He acknowledged that it is a significant problem for M. Ortmann noting that they will have to investigate whether or not it was Public Works. He stated that it is next to impossible to avoid putting snow in front of people's driveways or to control totally where the salt goes. He stated that he isn't diminishing the impact it has on M. Ortmann but he advised that there is an expectation from residents and businesses that the roadways are clear. He reiterated that it doesn't negate M. Ortmann's concerns.

M. Ortmann stated that at the beginning of winter he asked Staff why the snow is being piled up on his curb along Clay St. and not cleaned up. He advised that he received the answer that they only do it four times a year during the season. He reported that he had to use his own plow truck and plow in front of his building to get the snow away from it. He reported that he called N. Baker and advised that he is shoveling his own sidewalk and asked that the City at least get rid of the big pile of snow between Church and Clay; which it was then finally taken care of. Mayor Sager invited M. Ortmann to call Roscoe or himself for help in addressing his issues.

Council Comments

RB Thompson stated that Harold Ramis died since Council's last meeting and he noted that he had an economic impact on Woodstock that still lives and will continue to live. He reported that Woodstock got a lot of good press as Groundhog Day was mentioned as the apex of his career.

RB Thompson reported that today is the 100th birthday of Bob Wilson who was a citizen of Woodstock. He stated that he built the bomb and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia. He noted that he attended school at Todd School for Boys.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by RB Thompson to concur with Consent Agenda Items A-D6.

Mayor Sager advised that as a point of clarification there were scrivener errors made and noted that on Item D3 Liquor Amendment – BYOB License the reference in the document in the initial packet that was distributed was to Item 3.3.19c but it should be a reference to 3.6b. He advised that the other scrivener error is on Item D6 Purchase – Police Vehicles noting that the request is to purchase four replacement vehicles and not three. Mayor Sager asked R. Schlossberg to verify that they are scrivener errors and that the public has been properly notified in terms of the meeting and R. Schlossberg advised that the agenda sufficiently notifies the public of the subject matter.

- In reference to Item D6, M. Saladin stated that it is important to note that the cost is not changing because of the reference from three to four.
- In reference to Item D1, RB Thompson questioned if Ryan O'Conner was the person who showed them around Other World Computing and Mayor Sager affirmed.
- In reference to D2, RB Thompson stated that Ryder's Woods has had a poor reputation for a number of years but this project is really opening it up and making it more enticing to the public with its cleanliness and removal of invasive plants. Mayor Sager expressed appreciation for the ongoing volunteer efforts of clearing underlying species of plants from the main plants. He stated that it has been very positive noting that the grant opportunity will complement and advance the overall project. He thanked the volunteers who have participated in some of the efforts. RB Thompson stated that T. Willcockson is really coming through in her new position and he thanked her for her efforts.
- In reference to D4, RB Thompson stated that as a resident observing the expansion of Niko's it has been an excellent upgrade to the previous facilities there. He stated that he loves the fact that Niko is really looking at the aesthetics of the place as well as the utilitarian approach. Mayor Sager thanked Niko for his investment in the City of Woodstock. He expressed his gratefulness for Niko's dedication to the community and his cooperation when forwarding various events, which have been well received. Mayor Sager stated that he is supportive of it and is pleased with the suggested improvements.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

February 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

B. WARRANTS: 3605 3606 MFT #532**C. MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

Opera House Advisory Commission - 2013 Year Report

Police Department Report – January 2014

Transportation Commission Minutes – January 15, 2014

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes – January 27, 2014

D. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 19

- 1. Board and Commission Appointment – Economic Development Commission –**
Approval of the nomination of Ryan O'Connor to the Economic Development Commission.
- 2. Ryder's Woods Property Grant Proposal -** Adoption of Resolution 14-R-04 authorizing application to the 2014 ComEd Green Region Program for the Ryder's Woods Final Stage Habitat Restoration Project.
- 3. Liquor Amendment – BYOB License –** Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-19 amending Title 3, Chapter 3, Liquor Control, of the Woodstock City Code, creating a third classification of BYOB Permit, the BYOB Non-Restaurant Permit.
- 4. Zoning Variation – 1040 Lake Avenue –** Adoption of Ordinance 14-O-20 varying Section 7A.3C of the Unified Development Ordinance to allow the construction of two building additions at 1040 Lake Avenue.
- 5. Award of Contract – Hill Street Water Tower Improvements –**
Approval of an award of contract for Hill Street Water Tower Improvements to Water Tower Clean & Coat for an amount not to exceed \$27,000.
- 6. Purchase – Police Vehicles –** Approval to purchase four replacement vehicles for the City of Woodstock Police Department for a total price not to exceed \$111,000.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson. Nays: None. Absentees: M. Turner. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 7. Quarterly Financial Reports** Transmittal of the Third Quarter Financial Reports for the City of Woodstock.
 - a.) Revenues & Expenditures Report
 - b.) Investment Report

RB Thompson stated that they have had a telecommunications tax for quite awhile, but noted that it appears to be waning a little bit. He questioned if now that we don't have as many land based phones if there is a difference with the taxing of telecommunications.

P. Christensen stated that it is a concern of theirs and advised that they believe the problem is generally the lack of landlines and also people moving over to a VoIP based systems which don't bring in the same amount of taxes. He advised that it is on their radar to explore. He stated that people are moving over to cell phones so it was thought that it would come back and transfer land lines over to the cell phones, but it isn't doing that. He stated that one of the questions is if they are getting everyone and he referenced the unincorporated corporate problem. He advised that they also want to look into the issue of data and whether data is

subject to the tax also. He noted that it is on their radar to make sure the City is getting the money they are properly due.

RB Thompson stated that the color throughout the document really enhanced it and Council agreed. Mayor Sager expressed appreciation for Paul and Roscoe's efforts.

8. Budget Workshop – Scheduling of Budget Workshop.

Mayor Sager stated that the public hearing will be held on April 1st so they are looking to have the workshop somewhere between the 1st and the 15th. The consensus was to try to meet on Friday, April 11, 2014 in the afternoon. Mayor Sager advised that the specific start time will be sent out. He advised that it is an open, public meeting. He stated that the public hearing associated with the budget will be during the regular City Council meeting on April 1, 2014 and then they will look to finalize the budget for approval at the regular City Council meeting on April 15, 2014.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by J. Starzynski, second by M. Saladin, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

Collective Bargaining (Open Meetings Act: 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(2))

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Collective Bargaining

Personnel (Open Meetings Act: 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1))

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson. Nays: None. Absentees: M. Turner. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

The Woodstock City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The City Council returned to Open Session at 8:52 PM. A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: RB Thompson, Maureen Larson, Julie Dillon, Mark Saladin, Mayor Brian Sager, Joseph Starzynski

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Turner

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Human Resource Director Deb Schober, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Chief of Police Robert Lowen

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

M. Saladin questioned the targeted development item and Mayor Sager advised that it is for purposes of discussion regarding Council working with the Plan Commission and the Economic Development Commission to think about targeted development such as the area by the old Farm and Fleet.

RB Thompson stated that he thinks it is an appropriate time to relook at home rule. He referenced the opening of Ryland Homes and the possibility of Sweetwater being built out completely by this year or next year. He thinks there is going to be an expansion of the population. He advised coupling that with the possibility of annexing Todd's Woods, the reality is we could come up with 300 people. He stated that if they start the process to get an official census taken, keeping in mind that the quicker it is done the more money they will have from the State per capita which will start covering the cost of the census.

Mayor Sager stated that Staff has been looking at it, noting that City Manager has requested from Development to identify where we are right now. He advised that they evaluated the Maples on Country Club, the Sonatas, Sweetwater and the Ponds to make a determination as to whether we are there yet. He advised that the consensus conclusion was that we are not there yet; however, everyone agrees that as we look to the additional development and infill that RB Thompson referenced, as well as some others and also the annexation issue, which hasn't been discussed yet, we believe that within the next year to year and a half there will likely be an adequate number of additional residents. He stated that the plan is to continue to monitor it and forward a recommendation to Council for a special census by 2015. He advised that if they are able to do it successfully, it will give us five years on the current decennial census.

RB Thompson stated that he attended the MCCG meeting where the speakers talked about social media. He stated that he would like to be more informed as to where the City is in regards to social media. D. Schober reported that because she bought concert tickets she got an email from the Village of Rosemont with links to shopping and dining in the area; it expresses the power of social media. Mayor Sager stated that RB Thompson's point of interest is that Council would like an update noting that when they talk more about the potential for marketing it is in important element. He agreed that it should be a topic for a future discussion.

Mayor Sager stated that for the March 18th meeting there might be an update for Council on the plans for a community event.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Saladin, second by M. Larson, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to the next Regular Meeting on March 18, 2014. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, Mayor Sager, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson. Nays: None. Absentees: M. Turner. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell
City Clerk